

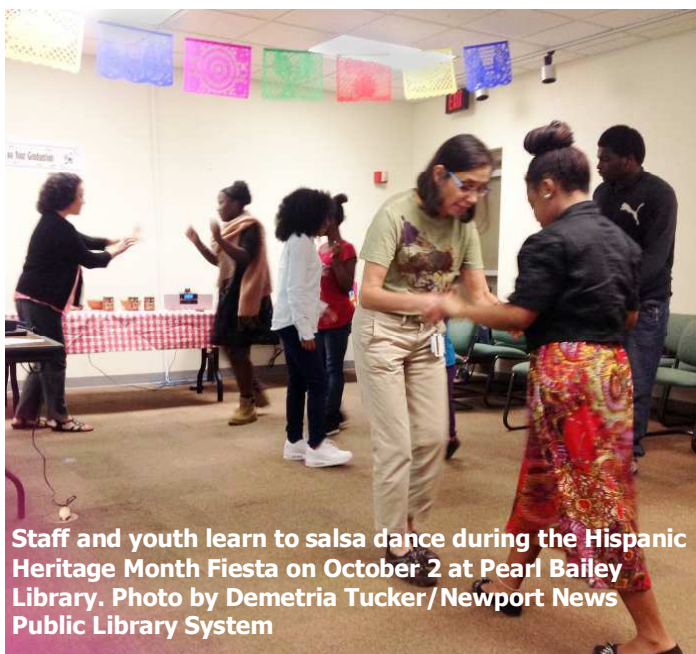
YOUTH SERVICES NOTES

Week of October 13, 2014

No. 186

Newport News Public Library System

Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated



Staff and youth learn to salsa dance during the Hispanic Heritage Month Fiesta on October 2 at Pearl Bailey Library. Photo by Demetria Tucker/Newport News Public Library System

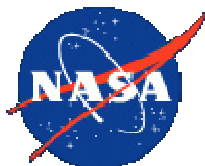
Submitted by Karen L. Gill, Community Relations and Programs Coordinator, Newport News Public Library System ■

NASA News

Send Your Name on NASA's Journey to Mars, Starting with Orion's First Flight

If only your name could collect frequent flyer miles. NASA is inviting the public to send their names on a microchip to destinations beyond low-Earth orbit, including Mars.

Your name will begin its journey on a dime-sized microchip when the agency's Orion spacecraft launches December 4 on its first flight, designated **Exploration Flight Test-1**. After a 4.5 hour, two-orbit mission around Earth to test Orion's systems, the spacecraft will travel back through the



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American Library Association News

ALA Calls on Department of Education to Include Public Libraries in Early Learning Intervention Model

The **American Library Association** (ALA) urged the Department of Education in a letter [dated October 8, 2014] to include public libraries as early learning partners in the Proposed Requirements for School Improvement Grants (SIG). **The Association specifically asks that the Department of Education include public libraries as eligible entities and allowable partners under the new intervention model that focuses on improving early learning educational outcomes.**

(A copy of the letter is attached to this newsletter.)

By offering reading materials, story times and summer reading programs, public libraries across the nation are supporting and complementing early learning efforts. According to a 2010 national survey of public libraries conducted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), public libraries offered 3.75 million programs to the public in 2010. The survey found that 2.31 million of those programs are designed for children aged 11 and younger. Another report found that the circulation of children's materials in libraries has increased by 28.3 percent in the last ten years and comprises over one-third of all materials circulated in public libraries.

"The country's 16,400 public libraries are prepared to support early childhood education, but we can only do so if policies allow for better collaboration, coordination, and real partnerships between libraries and the various federal early learning programs, including SIG grants," said **Emily Sheketoff**, executive director of the ALA Washington Office.

"Public libraries in communities across the country work tirelessly to support children and families by helping children develop early literacy and early learning skills," said **Andrew Medlar**, vice president and president-elect of the Association for Library

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Youth Services Notes

is issued weekly by

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The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of

federal support for

the nation's 123,000

libraries and 17,500

museums. Through

grant making, policy

development, and research, IMLS helps

communities and individuals thrive through broad

public access to knowledge, cultural heritage, and

lifelong learning. This newsletter project is made

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INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES

Thanks

for the photos and information!

◇ **Karen L. Gill**, Newport News Public Library System

Plus the usual suspects – ALA, ALSC, NASA/Lunar and Planetary Institute



Dates to Remember

Virginia Conferences

October 22-24, 2014 Virginia Library Association Williamsburg

National Conferences

November 14-16, 2014 YALSA Young Adult Literature Symposium Austin

January 30–February 3, 2015 American Library Association Midwinter Conference Chicago

June 25-30, 2015 American Library Association Annual Conference San Francisco

Online Courses

January 12, 2015–February 21, 2015 Bilingual Storytime and Library Outreach (Katie Scherrer) online

Training

November 13, 2014 Early Reading Instructional Strategies and Resources (LVA & VDOE) Wise

November 19, 2014 Early Reading Instructional Strategies and Resources (LVA & VDOE) Roanoke

NASA News

Continued from page 1

atmosphere at speeds approaching 20,000 mph and temperatures near 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit, before splashing down in the Pacific Ocean.

But the journey for your name doesn't end there. After returning to Earth, the names will fly on future NASA exploration flights and missions to Mars. With each flight, selected individuals will accrue more miles as members of a global space-faring society.

"NASA is pushing the boundaries of exploration and working hard to send people to Mars in the future," said Mark Geyer, Orion Program manager. "When we set foot on the Red Planet, we'll be exploring for all of humanity. Flying these names will enable people to be part of our journey."

The deadline for receiving a personal "boarding pass" on Orion's test flight closes Friday, October 31. The public will have an opportunity to keep submitting names beyond October 31 to be included on future test flights and future NASA missions to Mars.

To submit your name to fly on Orion's flight test, visit: <http://go.usa.gov/vcpz>

Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #JourneyToMars.

For information about Orion and its first flight, visit: <http://www.nasa.gov/orion>

Source: Email, October 7, 2014, from Andrew Shaner, Lunar and Planetary Institute; originally issued by Rachel and Dwayne Brown at NASA Headquarters, Washington, Brandi Dean, Johnson Space Center, Houston. ■

ALA Calls on Department of Education to Include Public Libraries in Early Learning Intervention Model

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Service to Children (ALSC). "Our libraries are a foundation of our communities and are ready and willing to help children succeed."

The ALA Washington Office and ALSC collaborated on the letter sent to the Department of Education.

Press Release, October 9, 2014 ■

"At the moment we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold, that magic threshold into a library, we change their lives forever, for the better."

~ President (then Senator) Barack Obama ~

American Library Association News

YALSA Partners with 3D Systems for MakerLab Club to Provide Libraries with 3D Printers

The **Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)**, in collaboration with **3D Systems**, will support 3D Systems' mission to build digital literacy and expand access to 21st century tools like 3D design, 3D Printing and 3D scanning for young adults across the nation, through the new **MakerLab Club** initiative. **YALSA members are eligible to become part of the MakerLab Club and for a limited time, apply for 3D printer donations from 3D Systems as part of MakerLab Club membership.**

Through the online application, <https://3dsystems.teamplatform.com/pages/78593?t=pz9ril1dlInna> libraries must illustrate a commitment to creating or expanding makerlabs or maker programming and to providing community access to 3D printers and digital design. Applications will be accepted through Nov. 17, 2014. After the application deadline, applications will be put through a competitive evaluation process to determine the recipients of the donated equipment.

"This is a grand opportunity for libraries across the nation to really advance their libraries' digital literacy" said YALSA President **Christopher Shoemaker**. "Teens will have the opportunity to experience digital literacy in a way they've never experienced before. We are very excited that this opportunity exists."

"We are proud to launch *The MakerLab Club*, providing critical equipment, training, and support to libraries and museums across our country," said **Neal Orringer**, vice president of Partnerships and Alliances, 3DS. "Today, libraries and museums are democratizing making in their local communities and reinforcing their longstanding position as centers of the arts, education and culture. We urge anyone interested in getting involved to contact us and get started setting up your lab today."

The MakerLab Club is a new community for thousands of U.S. Libraries and museums chartered to advance 3D digital literacy through public access to 3D printing technology. Members of the **MakerLab Club** will receive other benefits such as access to training webinars and curriculum. To learn more about the **MakerLab Club** and to apply for a donated 3D printer, please visit 3D Systems' official [MakerLab Club page](http://www.3dsystems.com/education/partnersandresources/makerlab-club) at <http://www.3dsystems.com/education/partnersandresources/makerlab-club>

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YALSA Partners with 3D Systems for MakerLab Club to Provide Libraries with 3D Printers

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About 3D Systems

3D Systems is pioneering 3D printing for everyone. 3DS provides the most advanced and comprehensive 3D design-to-manufacturing solutions including 3D printers, print materials and cloud sourced custom parts.

Press Release, October 19, 2014 ■

From ALSC Blog

October Means Fall Leaves, Halloween, and Summer Reading?

We often think of autumn as a time with cooler weather, changing leaves, and upcoming holidays on the horizon. **This October our thoughts are not only on all the fun fall has to offer, but the opportunities the upcoming summer season can provide.** Our library staff is currently assessing our summer reading services and evaluating the reasons behind why we do what we do. During this autumn, we will examine many of the logistical aspects of our summer reading plans to ensure we offer the very best program for children and their families. What plans does your library have to alter your reading program once summer rolls around?

What's In a Name?

For many years, our **Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center** in North Carolina has referred to our months of summer reading programming as our summer reading club, or more informally as SRC. During the summer, we offer many special programs and also have the opportunity for children to be read to or to read independently to receive prizes during the summer. **This year we are evaluating the name of our Summer Reading Club to see if it best suits our library's mission and goals.** Should we consider these special events to be part of a larger summer reading program, or do we consider our summer reading extravaganza to be a club that our young members can join? In some library systems, SRC refers to a summer reading challenge where library staff asks participants to take a more active role in setting their own reading goals. What name do you give to summer reading in your library system?

The Art of Measuring

Perhaps you measure the success of your program by the number of library visits a child makes over the summer or the overall circulation figures within your children's department. Maybe you encourage your young participants to read so many minutes or a

certain number of books, or your library encourages children to set their own individual reading goal. In the past, we tracked how many hours children read as a marker of success as children received different prizes for reaching each predetermined goal set by library staff. We are now considering providing an option where participants can set their own reading goal after they finish our traditional reading program. **Additionally, we are examining the incorporation of an Every Child Ready to Read component where young children may participate in family activities with their parents or caregivers to enhance their summer reading experience.** How do you plan to measure the success of your program this summer?

A Plethora of Programming

Programming is essential to the value of our summer reading club. In addition to our regularly scheduled story times, we offer various special programs and events to draw in large crowds during the summertime. Some of these programs feature interactive art or science components while other events may feature special speakers, guest programmers, or costumed characters. This year we are discussing the idea of offering special mini-festivals at our various locations. These festivals would incorporate some individual differences to distinguish the festivals from one another and to encourage customers to attend festivals at more than one location; this special programming would be tailored to meet the needs, interests, and resources available at our individual library branches. These festivals would also increase the opportunities staffers have to work with one another from our various branches. **Providing mini-festivals in addition to our regular programming could very well create a new opportunity for us to enhance our summer reading schedule.**

We are still in the beginning steps of our summer reading plans for 2015. There is so much value in assessing how we can maximize our summer reading experience for children and their families when June arrives. **As we consider how we will name our summer reading events, measure our success, and examine some options for innovative programming, it is exciting to think of all the options ahead for an amazing summer reading experience.** What new summer reading plans are you considering? Sharing your thoughts may spark new practices or programs in other libraries. Please add your ideas to the comments below!

Posted on October 8, 2014 by Megan Smith

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ALA American Library Association

October 8, 2014

Elizabeth Ross
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW, Room 3C100
Washington, DC 20202-5970

Dear Ms. Ross:

On behalf of the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children, I am writing to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Requirements for School Improvement Grants (SIG) published by the U.S. Department of Education in the Federal Register on September 8, 2014. We are commenting specifically on the new intervention model that focuses on improving early learning educational outcomes (Section I.A.2(f)).

There are over 16,400 public libraries, in every corner of this country, staffed by literacy professionals who deliver services tailored to the needs of each community and are available to all members of the community, regardless of economic status.

According to a 2013 report from the most recent national survey of public libraries conducted by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, public libraries offered 3.75 million programs to the public. The survey found that the majority of these programs (61.5 percent or 2.31 million) are designed for children aged 11 and younger; attendance at programs increased 21.9 percent since FY 2005; and circulation of children's materials has increased by 28.3 percent in the last 10 years and comprises over one-third of all materials circulated in public libraries.

In addition, the Pew Research Center released a report last year entitled "Parents' and Children's Special Relationship with Reading and Libraries" that found an overwhelming percentage of parents of young children, especially those with annual incomes under \$50,000, believe that libraries are "very important" for their children, and are eager for more and varied family library services.

In spite of significant budget restraints, libraries are working at the local level to help support and complement early learning efforts:

- The Dayton Metro Library system in Ohio is a partner in the city's "Passport to Kindergarten" program that is designed to help preschoolers in the Dayton region prepare for kindergarten. The goal of the program is to improve the oral language skills of preschoolers in the Dayton Region so they are ready to learn by the start of kindergarten. It uses research-based dialogic reading technique to help improve the preschoolers' vocabulary. The program is led by ReadySetSoar and partners with schools, community organizations, and parents to help children build language skill critical to reading success.
- The Southern Pines Public Library in North Carolina is a core partner in an intensive program run by the school system, local Boys and Girls clubs, and a local neighborhood revitalization group. The school system identifies youth participants for the six-week, full-day program at the local Boys and Girls Club. Morning activities are academically focused, while the afternoon includes experiential activities.

- The Arlington Public Library in Texas is leading a planning effort to create a more coordinated approach to school readiness. The library is bringing together leaders from the school districts, United Way, Head Start, and other organizations to address low readiness scores and fragmented services. Using the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) model, they are analyzing neighborhood data to fill gaps in services and programs.
- The Carnegie-Stout Public Library in Iowa partners with kindergarten classrooms and daycare centers throughout their district for their Bridge to Reading project in order to support the 3rd grade reading initiative. The program encourages language development and pre-reading skills through reading a group of high quality and age appropriate books selected by children's librarians. These books are then read aloud to children six and under. The program engages children by having them participate in activities related to the books and voting for their favorite book.

Simply put, our nation's public library systems are equipped to deliver critical early learning resources to young children and families, especially those most in need. But, in far too many instances across the country, libraries are not able to participate in the patchwork of early childhood education grants and are not considered as a resource in helping to design the policies and practices that link children and their families to early learning initiatives.

Accordingly, the American Library Association and the Association for Library Service to Children ask that as you finalize the requirements for this new SIG intervention model that focuses on improving early learning educational outcomes, you consider ways in which SIG grants could be leveraged to encourage libraries as early learning partners. We believe this new early learning intervention model could be administered in a more coordinated and flexible manner that would help improve our early learning efforts without "recreating the wheel." In particular, we would ask that you include libraries as eligible entities and allowable partners under the new intervention model that focuses on improving early learning educational outcomes (Section I.A.2(f)).

Our public library system stands ready to help improve early childhood education across the country, but we can only do so if policies are crafted in a way that allows for better collaboration, coordination, and real partnerships between libraries and the various federal early learning programs, including SIG grants.

Last year, IMLS released a report about "Growing Young Minds" that reiterates our point. In the report, Susan Hildreth, the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, said that "now is the time for policy makers and practitioners to fully use the capacity of libraries...in their early learning efforts." She went on to say that, "this is critical because we must work together to reach the all-too-many children who are still left out of effective community early learning opportunities and resources, and disconnected from the powerful programs for children, parents, and caregivers." We couldn't agree more.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional questions or need any information regarding ways in which our nation's libraries can help to improve the new SIG intervention model that focuses on improving early learning educational outcomes.

Sincerely,



Emily Sheketoff
Executive Director of the Washington Office
American Library Association